OCS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

2048

R

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
VITAL STATISTICS
P. O. BOX 1528
NEW CASTLE, PA. 16103

January 30, 1979

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON (S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

Mr. Bruce E. Dozier, Attorney-Adviser
c/o Mr. Alan A. Gise
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Overseas Consular Services
Department of State
CA-OCS, Room 4817
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Dozier:

Upon receipt of your letter of January 5, 1979, concerning the possible disposition of Jonestown bodies in Pennsylvania, I contacted our Office of Legal Counsel for an interpretation. Enclosed is a copy of their response and a copy of my initial communication with them regarding this matter. After reviewing these correspondences, you will note that the Department of Health does not foresee any difficulty in interring the Jonestown bodies in Pennsylvania. It is imperative, however, that the following documentation accompany each body:

1) The two opinions issued by J. C. Gonsalves-Sabola, S.C., Solicitor-General of Guyana, dated December 4, 1978, and December 9, 1978.

2) The certification of Mr. Charles C. Carson, Mortuary Officer, Dover Air Force Base, dated January 2, 1979.

3) The death certificate being prepared by the Guyanese government.

When a funeral director plans to inter or cremate a Jonestown body in Pennsylvania, please instruct him to contact me personally so that we may avoid any difficulties with the local cemeteries or crematories. I will issue to him a letter of explanation which he may present to the cemetery or crematory.

If you should require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles Hardester
Director

Enclosures